

Wilmington University School of Law's Multi-Year Mentor Program

This is Part I of a multi-year mentoring program which will create opportunities for students to interact with and learn from legal professionals in our community as they move through their legal education.

Students will be expected to participate in the Mentoring Program during the 1L year. As a 1L, each student will be individually paired with a mentor. This approach is designed to give 1L students the opportunity to get to know a mentor on an individual level and have conversations one-on-one. Utilizing this structure for the 1L year will simplify finding time for the student and mentor to connect throughout the year.

We recognize there is great value in meeting face-to-face and realize valuable conversations can take place in other ways as well. We will ask for in-person attendance at two meetings for the 1L Mentor Program: the opening event where students and mentors will be brought together to launch this program each year and the closing meeting where we will share highlights and close the program for the academic year. Expectations and a proposed schedule can be found below.

Mentor Expectations:

- Be in good legal standing and no grievances on file
- Support and participate in the Program Expectations outlined below
- Check in with your student monthly in addition to scheduled meetings/programs
- Respond to law school survey requesting feedback in December and May

Student Expectations:

- Participation is required
- Participate and fully engage in the Program Expectations outlined below
- Be responsive to mentor's outreach
- Provide law school with written reflection following meetings with your mentor
- Respond to law school survey requesting feedback in December and May

Program Participation Expectations:

- Attend the opening and closing meetings which will take place in person
- Meet a minimum of 6 times throughout the academic year (see proposed schedule)
- One meeting should include attending a Bar Association meeting/event with your mentor

Proposed Meeting Schedule

The proposed schedule includes six meetings. WilmU Law will ask for in-person attendance at two meetings: the opening event where students and mentors will be brought together to launch the program and the closing meeting where we will share highlights and close the program for the academic year. For the remaining meetings, general topics are noted to help direct the discussion and pairs are encouraged to cover other topics of interest to the student. Mentors and students will determine how they will meet and when to attend a Bar Association event.

September: In-Person Opening Meeting (Law School)

- Opening Remarks, Intro to Program Structure, Mentor Pairs introduced
- Break outs to allow students and mentors to introduce themselves and for pairs to discuss goals and meeting schedule

October: Mentor-Student (format determined by pair)

- Getting to know the Delaware State Bar Assoc.
- Discuss possible date for DSBA event attendance

November: Mentor-Student (format determined by pair)

- Professionalism-what it means and how it fits in-everywhere
- Lawyers Giving Back-What is expected from the profession

January: Mentor-Student (format determined by pair)

- Ethical Issues that arise
- The DEI & B Landscape

February: DSBA/Bar Association Event (or swap for another month)

- Opportunity to meet and be introduced to attorneys and judges
- Explore areas of interest

End of March: In-Person Closing Meeting (Law School)

- Wrap Up, Comments and reflections

Suggestions for additional discussion topics: Leadership in the Law, Specific Practice Area interests, Managing finances to position yourself for success, Ethical issues and resources for reference, Professionalism, etc.